



WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Toison
Mr. Within
Mr A Made
Mar CIRR.
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. For worth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
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Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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J4.717A

New York, hew York.

PEF:RG

May 24, 1939

PERSONAL AND CO PROGRETIAL

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, hashington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There has appeared in LEONARD LYOKS column upon several occasions reference to

67C, 671

LYONS has mentioned in his column that paid for his passport; that he accountly smuggled in property for GRACIZALLEN and HARM LIVINGS. To rether than GROSSIDEURIS and JACKDEURIN. Recently he neutloned that was involved in connection with the passing of a \$10,000.00 %. So note by an attorney in town.

b7c

United States Attorney John To Cahill spoke to me about this and said he was very much concerned regarding the information appearing in LYOMS! column and wondered where the leak might be. I told Mr. Cahill that only one or two Agents of the Federal Sureau of Investigation knew of

67C,67D

other than myself and I was certain there had been no leak in the F.b.I.; that we furnished reports to him under Personal and Confidential cover and I did not know who in his office had access to these reports. I did tell Hr. Cahill that I thought that if he wanted to ascertain the source of LYONS' information he should call him down and ask him or else have him appear before the Grand Jury.

RECORDED & INDEXED

At that time Mr. Cahill stated that he did not think that any purpose would be served by interviewing LYONS because he did not believe that he would disclose his source of information; further that he felt that if LYONS were called before the Grand Jury he would still refuse to disclose the source of his information. Mr. Cahill also pointed out that to follow such a procedure might interfere with the pleasant relations now existing between his office and the press.

Letter to Director

5/24/39

I informed Assistant Director E. A. Tamm of Mr. Cahill's remarks in connection with this matter and Mr. Tamm later instructed that I tell Mr. Cahill that the matter had been discussed with you and you were of the opinion that it would be a very good idea to have LYONS before the Grand Jury in order to question him concerning his sources of information and further that you were also greatly concerned about the source of information of the who has been found from time to time to be in possession of a good bit of confidential information and that it was your suggestion that at the same time to be questioned as to his sources of information.

I informed Mr. Cahill of the above selling his that it was your suggestion. At that time Mr. Cahill again stated that he did not feel that any purpose would be served by editing either of the individuals before the Crand Jury for the reason that they would undoubtedly refuse to disclose their sources of information and for the further reason that he felt that it would interfers with the present relationship existing with the representatives of the press.

Very truly yours.

P. E. FOXWORTH, Inspector.

607 U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y.

SJD: JPM 62-6419

PERSONAL VID CONFIDENTIAL

August 11, 1939

Hon. John T. Cahill United States Attorney U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

For your information, during a recent interview with a prisoner in the Federal House of Detention,

New York City, Special Agent was informed that a bondsman, was interested in a prisoner by the name of a bondsman, who was convicted early this year on a charge of counterfeiting and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

advised that was also being held at the House of Detention, New York City. However, it was subsequently ascertained that was transferred to the Atlanta penitentiary on July 14, 1939.

by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that and and are very close to MR. DELANEY and were working for a reduction in sentence.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH, Special Agent in Charge

cc-Bureau

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Nederal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Justice

New York, N. Y.

SJD₁EL 62-6419

July 25, 1939

PERSONAL

Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For the Burgau's information, during a conference on July 6, 1939, a prisoner in the Federal House of Detention, New York City, advised Special Agent (A) that a bondsman, was interested in a prisoner by the name of who was convicted early this year on a charge of counterfeiting and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. advised that was being held at the House of Detention, New York City. It has been subsequently determined that was transferred to the Atlanta was being Penitentiary on July 14, 1939.

67 C further informed that handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that and were working for a reduction in sentence.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH.

Special Agent in Charge.

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PERSONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AUG 7 1939

IL S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BALL.

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VCZ: RMB

August 3, 1939

RECORDED - 4-717-14

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Special Agent in Charge New York, New York

Dear Sir:

25, 1939, concerning

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pondsman, was interested in a prisoner by the name income case was handled by Assistant Salies Sieves Athorney Joseph . Delaney, and that

Salked States Attorney Joseph L. Beldney, and that man very class to Delaney and were working for a reduction in sentence.

It is desired that the information related in your above-mentioned letter be brought to the attention of United States Attorney Cabill.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Roover Director

Mr. Nothan
Mr. Nothan
Mr. E. A. Turcin
Mr. Clear
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawlor
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quian Tamin
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gándy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

AUG -3 1939 ★

P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Gem Smugglek

Albert N. Chapereau, who, did a bit of smugging for Jack Renny, Mary Livingston, George Burns and Gracie Allen back in 1938, now wants the quartet to cough up with the \$7,682 he paid in fines, it became known yesterday.

Attorneys for the radio stars announced they'd move for dismissal of suits in Supreme Court at 10 A. M. today. Benny and Burns paid fines of \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively, in connection with the smuggling.

respectively, in connection which smuggling.

In his suit against the Bennys—
Jack and Mary—Chapereau seeks
\$2,131 and interest, charging they asked him to carry diamond and gold clips and a bracelet from France.

63 MAR 17 1945

CLIFFING FROM THE N. Y. DAILY MEWS

DATED 2. 2. 8-40
FORWARDED BY M. Y. DIVISION

52 MAK 2 1 1945

Prison Opens for Smuggler

Chaperau Sentence Is Commuted

NEW YORK, April 12.—(P)—The United States Attorney's Office here was advised today that President Roosevelt had commuted to the time already served the five-year sentence imposed last April on Albert N. Chaperau, central figure in a widespread smuggling plot.

Chaperau, a pseudo diplomat, was, convicted as the carrier of smuggled goods which wound up in the hands of such notables as Jack Benny and George Burns, the radio comedians, and Mrs. Edgar Lauer, wife of a former New York State Supreme Court justice.

Chaperau's sentence, while originally put at five years, already had been cut by Federal Judge Hulbert, on motion of the prosecution, to two years minus the time served while awaiting trial—which made the actual sentence about 18 months. His unpaid \$5,000 fine \$110 to the put against him.

repain in judgment against him Benny paid a \$10,000 fine; Buns \$8,000 Mrs. Lauer served a 3month jail term.

THE DETRUIT NEWS APRIL 12, 1940



U S. Rewards Chaperau

Albert N. Chaperau, serving two years in Federal prison for jewel smuggling, today earned his reward for co-operating with the Government in the case involving Jack Benny and George Burns, radio comedians, and Mrs. Elma N. Lauer, wife of former Supreme Court Justice Edgar A. Lauer.

An indictment against his wife, Paula Chaperau, was nolle prossed under authorization of U. S. Attorney John T. Cahill on the plea of Chaperau that Mrs. Chaperau and their 16-year-old daughter were poverty stricken in France and would like to return here.

Burns and Benny were givens a suspended sentence and Mrs. Layer was sentenced to three months in

54-717-A-

CLIFFING FROM THE N. Y. EVENTHO FOURNAL AMERICAN

DATE. (FW 7 - 1.3) FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

a gger (<u>----</u> Brided Against Mrs. Chaperau

Cahill Drops Indictment as Reward to Husband for Manton Trial Testimony

Manton Trial Testimony

The prosecution of fights. Pauls Chaperau as a member at a jewelty smuggling asyndicate operated by her suspends. Afbert M. Chaperau and Mrs. Edgar J. Taust, when a three-count indictment drawn up against her on Dec. 9, 1933, was nolle prossed in United States (Diatrict Court.)

Joseph J. Delaner, Assistant United States Attorney, filed the government's intention to drop prosseution of Mrs. Chaperau which was said to be the last legal action (after in the store of the surface of the surf ecutions.

ecitions.

Chiaperau had made many attempts since he was sentenced on Jan. 10, 1939, for his part in the smuggling conspiracy, either to gain his release 6, quash the indictiment against his wife, so, that she and their sixteen-year-old daughter, who are at present in Paris, could come to the United States. Chaperau told authorities that his family was told authorities that his family was

poverty-stricken. Mrs. Chaperau's part in the operations of the jewelry smugglers, according to the indictment, revolved around the smuggling into this country of a gold ring, studded with diamonds, valued at \$905. The document charged that Mrs. Chaperau brought in the ring at the suggestion of her husband, who posed as a commercial attache of the Nicaraguan government, to escape payment of simport duties. Besides smuggling the jewelry Mrs. Chaperau was accused of making talse declarations to the sustains by talting that the ring was her personal rioperty, whereas it really, was intinded to be sold to Burns, which was eventually done. Mrs. Chaperau's part in the opera-

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FORMARDED IN THE YORK LIFT SION

surray Direct Tetar Surac

New York Ismury 16, 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Re: 670

Gentlemen:

HANDVER 2-7800

67c

has brought suit against our client alleging that on or about November 9, 1940, it negli- b70 gently destroyed some of his personal property, contrary to his instructions.

We have some recollection of a man of a similar name being involved with the Department of Justice, due to violations of the Customs Laws. Our basis for believing that this is the same man is the fact that among the alleged property destroyed there is claimed to have been some correspondence from people of promintence in the theatrical and radio business.

We are interested in obtaining any useful information you may have in your files which will assist us in the defense of our case.

If convenient and agreeable to you, we shall be glad to have our representative confer with your representative in New York City to go over the matter in more detail.

Yours very truly,

By:

Managing Attorney

MC

JEO:GU

4 . / . JAC:LIC 54-717-15

February 2, 1943

27 Geder Street New York, New York

Dear 51C

I have for acknowledgment your letter dated January 16, 1943.

Please be advised that the matter referred to therein was handled by the Customs Service in New York City, and it is, therefore, suggested you may desire to communicate with the Customs Service or with the United States Attorney's Office in New York City, which prosecuted this case, for further details in this regard.

I regret advising that I am unable to render you any assistance in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover Mr. Tolson____ Director Mr. E. A. Tamm_ Mr. Clegg Mr. Glavin____ Mr. Ladd____ Mr. Nichola____ Mr. Rosen Mr. Tracy____ Mr. Carson____ Mr. Colley____ Mr. Hendon Mr. Kramer Mr. McGuire Mr. Quian Tamm_0 Mr. Necac

In &

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June 25, 1964

JACK BENNY Born: February 14, 1894 Waukegan, Illinois

In response to your request for a check of the files of this Bureau concerning the captioned individual, you are advised that no investigation of him has been conducted by the PBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940 Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

You may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for information concerning this matter. (54-717)

Original & 1 - CSC Request Received 6/23/64

GHS:ncb

| EINCLOSURE

TE JUN 30 1964

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in apswer to your request for a check of FBI files.



ADDRESS REPLY TO
"CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION"
AND REFER TO

AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

Benny, Jack (stage name)
DOB: 2-11-94

FOB: Waukegan, Ill.

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, VOLUME 31, 1960-1961, page 222

Radio entertainer; b. Waukegan, Ill., Feb. 14, 1894; s. Meyer and Emma (Sachs) Kubelsky; ed. Waukegan (Ill.) High Sch.; m. Mary Livingstone (actress) Jan. 25, 1927; 1 dau., Joan Naomi (adopted), Began as violinist, 1912; featured player on vaudeville stage; star in motion pictures since 1929; radio entertainer since 1932 also on TV as guest artist and in own program; recent pictures: To Be or Not to Be, George Washington Slept Here, The Horn Blows at Midnight. Served in U. S. Navy, World War I; spent summers 1943, 44, 45, entertaining armed forces Overseas during World War II. Recipient award for best continuing performance by a male entertainer Nat. Acad. Television Arts and Sci., 1957, Spl. award. Home: 1002 North Roxbury Dr., Beverly Hills, Cal.

SII Check - No Record

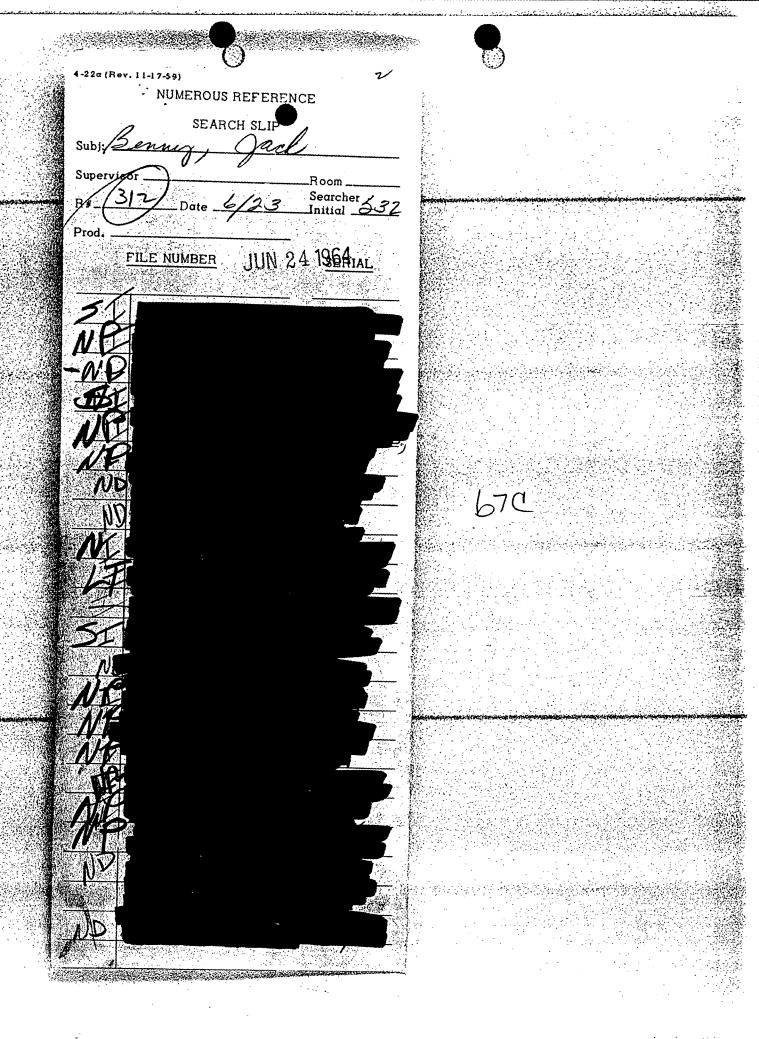
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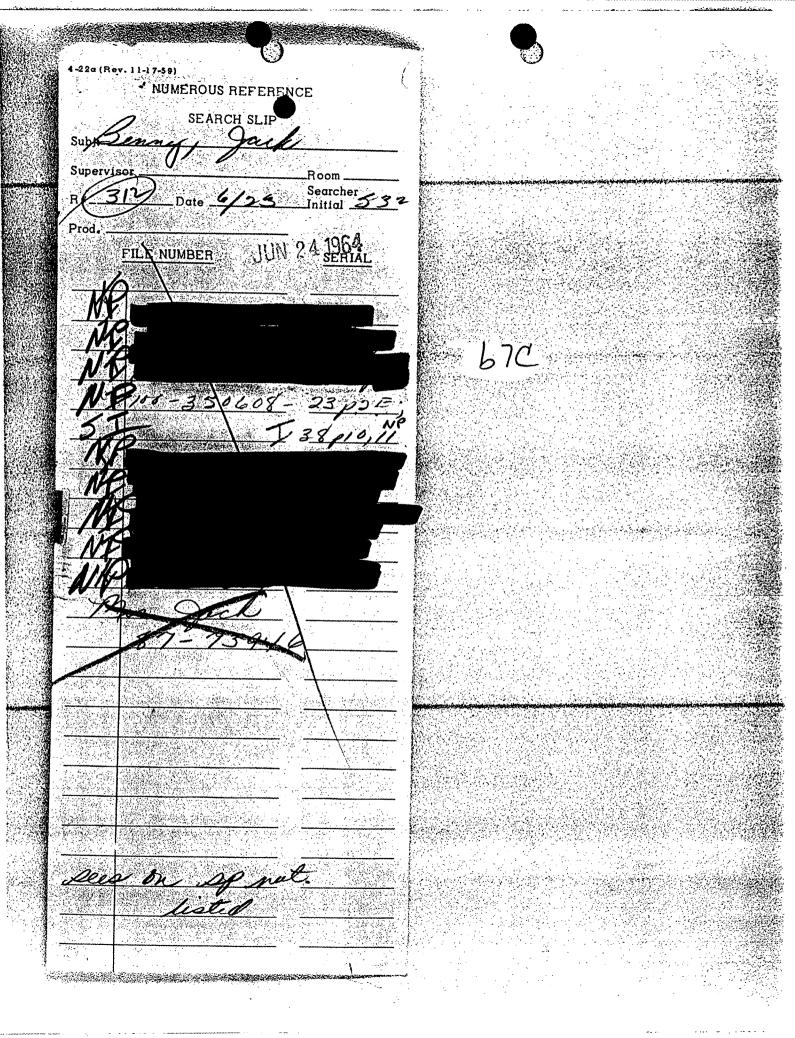
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BENJAMN KUBELSKY, ALSO KNOWN
AS JACK BENNY
BORN: FEBRUARY 14, 1894
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

Captioned individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940, Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

As the files of the FBI contain no additional pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U.S. Treasury Department for further information. (54-717)

(Request per Social Secretary, White House.)

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 8-13-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: NAME CHECK REQUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE

107C

, Social Secretary at the White House, requested a check of Bureau files concerning the following individuals: Dan Blocker, Nathan Birnbaum (George Burns), Alfred Gerald Caplin (Al Capp),

Michael Landon, Raymond Massey,

Richard Bernard Skelton (Red Skelton), Sam Jaffe

There are attached 14 memoranda reflecting the results of these checks.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you, Mr. DeLoach, furnish the attached letterhead

memoranda to

MG AUG 25 364

Enclosures (14) NOLONGE

1 - Mr. Belmont - Enclosures 1 - M. Mohr - Enclosures 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures

Mr. Evans - Enclosures

- Mr. Rosen - Enclosures

JMM:cmk

CRIMIN RESEARCH

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(Rev. 1-22-60) Federai Bureau of Investigation Records B Name Searching Unit - Room 6527 Service Unit - Room 6524 Forward to File Review Attention 1 Return to Ext. Room Publiciani Type of References Requested: Regular Request (Analytical Search) All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive) Subversive References Only Monsubversive References Only
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August 13, 1964

NATHAN BIRNBAUM, ALSO KNOWN AS GEORGE BURNS BORN: JANUARY 20, 1896 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Captioned individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940, Burns was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$8,000.

As the files of the FBI contain no farthum pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for further information. (54-717)

In 1943, Burns was reported to be a sponsor of the Committee for the Care of Children in Wartime, which organization allegedly had Communist Party affiliations and connections. Burns, however, was believed to be unaware of the true nature of the organization. (100-92879-24)

In the early 1940's, Burns was reported to be a member of the Hollywood Democratic Committee, cited as a communist front by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in a 1948 report. In June, 1945, Burns was also listed as a member of the executive council of the June, 1945, Burns was also listed as a member of the Arts, Sciences and Professions Hollywood Independent Citizens: Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (HICCASP), successor to the Hollywood Democratic Committee. The HICCASP was also cited as a communist frent by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in its 1948 report. (100-197270-7, 21;100-15252)-39).

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March 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Reference is made to your name check request for a review of FBI files concerning the following individuals subsequent to the date of the previous name check request as noted following each name.

Benjamin Kubelsky (also known as Jack Benny) John Ernst Steinbeck

September 12, 1963 August 12, 1964 May 20, 1964

Our files contain no additional pertinent information oncerning Mr. Kubelsky.

In 1967, information was received that (

was a

reference for an individual who was a delegate from the New York Guild of the American Newspaper Guild to its National Convention in 1945. The New York Newspaper Guild had been described as communist infiltrated and communist dominated. This same individual reportedly sent a communication to Governor Thomas Dewey in 1954 appealing for executive clemency for who was convicted on June 28, 1941, in General Sections Court, New York, and sentenced to State Prison on four counts of giving false testimony before the Rapp--Condert Joint Legislative Commissee. During his testimony had admitted membership in the Communist Party but had lied with respect to the number of individuals he knew to be members of the City College of New York Unit of the wornmunist Party,

ENCLOSURE 1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent dice)

Mr. Galentsent direct)

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Mrs. Mildred Stegall

Information was received in 1966 that a Czechoslovakian citizen, who had been a member of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party since 1945, was to visit the United States on the cultural exchange program in 1966. He indicated an intention to visit friends in the United States included among whom was John Steinbeck.

The files of the Identification Division were checked and found to contain no additional pertinent data concerning the above individuals.

A copy of this communication has not been sent to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

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NOTE: Our files reflect that the final results of our name check concerning wellsent by memorandum dated 9-12-63, rather than 9-4-63. The additional information was developed subsequent to the prior summary memorandum furnished in 1963.

June 6, 1972

MR. AND MRS. JACK BENNY

Jack Benny, who you advised resides at 1400 Tower Grove Drive, Beverly Hills, California, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI. However, our files reveal that in late 1939 and early 1940, Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation which was not investigated by this Bureau, and was subsequently convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000. (54-715)?

Attached is a copy of an FBI Record, Number 3 367 854, which may relate to Jack Benny. The central files of the FBI contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individuals based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

Enclosure

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NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

KPW:ped

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ENCLOSURE

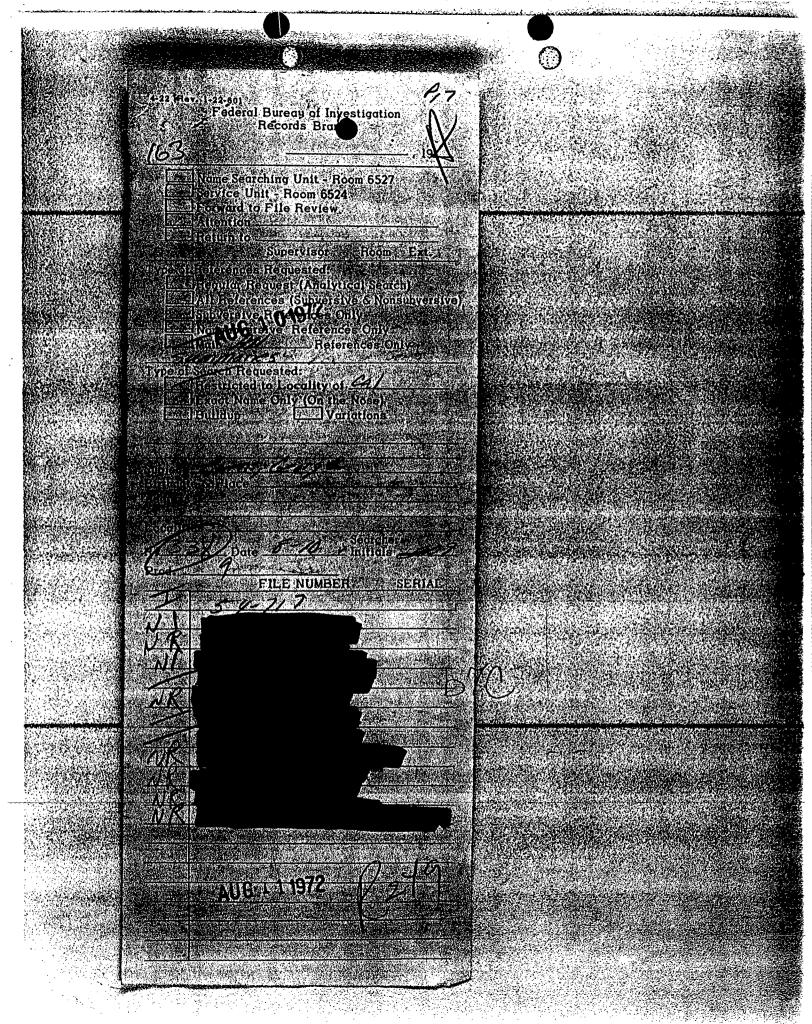
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DO-6 OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11:02AM

June 8, 1971

The Tour Room advised that a special tour of the Eureau has been arranged for the daughter of Jack Denny, the famous comedian, Mr. Benny's grandson,

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for 10:30 a.m., tomorrow,
Wednesday, June 9th. They will be
conducted on tour by a Special Agent
of the Crime Records Division.

There was no request to meet the Director.

This tour was requested through the office of the Vice President.

MR. TOLSON

MR. SULLIVAN

MR. MOHE

MR. BESNOF

MR. BERNNAN, C.D.

MR. CALLAHAN

MR. CASPER

MR. CONRAD

MR. DALL SY

MR. FELT

MR. GALE

MR. ROSEN

MR. TAVEL

MR. WALTERS

MR. SOYARS

MR. JONES

TELE. ROOM

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ORIGINAL FILED IN

June 6, 1972 BY LIAISON Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President Who White House Washington, D. C. Dear Mr. Butterfield: Reference is made to your name check request concerning Mr. and Mrs. Jack Benny, Attached are separate memoranda concerning those individuals. Patrick Gray, III Acting Director Inclosures (4) 1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct) JCF:mcbn/CD Campbell _ Casper _ Conrad

UNRIO 1972 TELETYPE UNIT

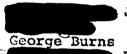
August 22, 1972 BY LIAISON

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your name check request concerning Jim Backus and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:



Jim Backus

Vince Edwards

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Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III Acting Director

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NOT RECORDED 184 AUG 23 1972

1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct)

JCF:mcb(CC

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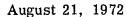
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GEORGE BURNS

Captioned individual, who you advised resides at 720 North Maple Drive, Beverly Hills, California, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBL

However, our files reveal that in late 1939 Burns, whose true name is Nathan it irnbaum, was the subject of a smuggling (jewels and clothing) investigation which was not conducted by this Bureau. He was subsequently convicted, given a suspended sentince of one year and one day, and paid an \$8,000 fine. (54-717)

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individual based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

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NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

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